

# TRIDENT WAR OF WORDS

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"As I understand it, the document was never made available to local authority officials from Strathclyde.

"It seems as if Mr Rifkind does not know what he is talking about," said Mr O'Neill.

The controversial document, from the Royal Navy College, Department of Nuclear Science and Technology, shows a "worst case scenario" at Faslane could wipe out HALF the population of Scotland.

## Danger

Defence officials have always claimed a bad Faslane accident would be confined to a 10-kilometre radius of the base.

But in today's docu-

ment, the MoD admits the danger zone is TEN times greater.

The 100-kilometre radius would mean a possible radiation danger from Faslane for people living as far south as GIRVAN - and as far north as FORT WILLIAM.

It would also include EDINBURGH to the east and ISLAY to the west.

Faslane peace camp spokesman Malcolm Boatman said: "This just proves what we have been saying all along.

"We hope now the public will realise the danger they face."

And Labour Defence spokesman George Foulkes added: "Chernobyl showed us just what can happen in a worst case scenario. It might be

a one in a million year threat, but who is to say when that year will be?"

Mr Rifkind maintained a "worst case" scenario would involve a civilian nuclear reactor, which is many times more dangerous than a submarine reactor.

## Defended

And he said the hypothesis was based on what could happen "once in a million years".

He also defended the Government's handling of Rosyth.

He said he was confident about a call for a National Audit to be carried out into the decision to award the Trident refitting programme to Devonport, rather than Rosyth.

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## EXOCET ACCIDENT

The Royal Navy has launched an inquiry after an Exocet missile was accidentally dropped from a ship in Plymouth Sound. Ministry of Defence experts are investigating the incident, which occurred last Thursday, and involved the Royal Fleet Auxilliary ship Regent.

## NUCLEAR BIN OPENS

BRITAIN'S national disposal store for low level nuclear waste, at Drigg near Sellafield, Cumbria, has come on stream with the opening of the first of three concrete vaults, costing £20m. The site will be used to store compacted waste, which will have a life of four

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